

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 148276

62
ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MMS-04 IO-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 DPW-01 ACDA-10 INRE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/RA:RLWALKINSHAW:AP

APPROVED BY EA/RA:RJMARTENS

EA/K - DO'DONOHUE

EA/PHL - BFLECK

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 148276

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: HABIB'S STATEMENT BEFORE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE -

JUNE 24

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB'S STATEMENT

TO FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE ON JUNE 24:

BEGIN TEXT

I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE THIS
SUBCOMMITTEE TO TESTIFY ON UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD
KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES IN THE CONTEXT OF DEVELOPMENTS
AFFECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THOSE COUNTRIES.

IN HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE YOU ON JUNE 30, 1974, THE
THEN ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MR. ARTHUR HUMMEL, GAVE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 148276

A CLEAR STATEMENT ON OUR GENERAL POLICY OF HUMAN RIGHTS
MATTERS AS WELL AS AN ACCURATE, FORTHRIGHT SUMMARY OF THE
SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA AT THAT TIME. THEREFORE, I NEED
NOT TAKE UP THE TIME OF THIS COMMITTEE BY RESTATING WHAT

IS ALREADY ON THE RECORD. HOWEVER, I DO BELIEVE THAT, BEFORE I GET INTO THE CURRENT SITUATION, A FEW INTRODUCTORY REMARKS ARE IN ORDER.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS GENUINELY AND DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. THIS CONCERN REFLECTS BOTH OUR OWN TRADITIONS AS WELL AS A REALIZATION THAT HUMAN RIGHTS AND RESPECT FOR THEM, ARE VALID FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. MOREOVER, WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE CONDUCT OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY AS WELL AS THE CLEAR INTENT OF THE CONGRESS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS BE ADDRESSED IN THE FORMULATION OF OUR POLICIES.

WE NEITHER CONDONE NOR SUPPORT REPRESSIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY OTHER GOVERNMENTS AGAINST THEIR CITIZENS OR AGAINST OTHERS. INDEED, MANY OF OUR BASIC POLICIES ARE DESIGNED TO CREATE AN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CAN PROCEED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF SECURITY AND PERSONAL FREEDOM. WITHIN THE UN FRAMEWORK, WE HAVE TAKEN THE LEAD IN SUPPORTING INITIATIVES ON SUCH MATTERS AS ELIMINATION OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE, RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AND OTHER INFRINGEMENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WE CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR BROADER INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT ON THESE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES.

WE ARE, AS YOU KNOW, IN CONTINUING CONTACT AT EVERY LEVEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITH AMERICAN GROUPS INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. EVEN WHERE THERE IS SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT WITH OUR POLICIES, WE HAVE, AND CERTAINLY PLAN TO CONTINUE THIS DIALOGUE. ALSO, AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF OUR CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WE HAVE, AS YOU KNOW, INSTITUTIONALIZED THIS CONCERN AS PART OF THE FOREIGN POLICY PROCESS. WE HAVE DESIGNATED MR. JAMES WILSON AS COORDINATOR FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY SECRETARY. WE HAVE ALSO APPOINTED HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICERS IN EACH OF THE REGIONAL

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 148276

BUREAUS AND AN ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS.

FURTHER, IN THOSE CASES WHERE WE CAN BE EFFECTIVE, WE DO QUIETLY EXPRESS TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS OUR VIEWS ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS, AND ASSURE THAT THEY CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE STRONGLY HELD VIEWS, NOT ONLY IN THE CONGRESS, BUT CERTAINLY AMONG THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, ON HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS. WE HAVE DONE THIS BOTH IN KOREA AND THE PHILIPPINES.

AT THE SAME TIME, MR. CHAIRMAN, WE MUST RECOGNIZE THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH SOVEREIGN COUNTRIES WITH

DIFFERENT POLITICAL SYSTEMS. WE CAN NEITHER DETERMINE THE COURSE OF INTERNAL CHANGE NOR BE CERTAIN AS TO WHAT

THE OUTCOME WILL BE IN SITUATIONS WHERE THERE ARE INTERNAL TENSIONS. FURTHER, OUR POLICIES TOWARD INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES REPRESENT A MIX OF INTERESTS, OBJECTIVES AND RELATIONSHIPS, DIFFERING IN ALMOST EVERY CASE. WE KNOW THAT NEGLECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS MAY WELL ADVERSELY AFFECT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OTHER IMPORTANT OBJECTIVES. WE ALSO KNOW THAT INTERNAL POPULAR SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL TO LONG-TERM POLITICAL STABILITY. AS THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAID IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE JAPAN SOCIETY ON JUNE 18 "...THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT POPULAR WILL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ARE, IN THE LAST ANALYSIS, THE ESSENTIAL UNDERPINNINGS OF RESISTANCE TO SUBVERSION AND EXTERNAL CHALLENGE."

WITH THESE INTRODUCTORY REMARKS, I WILL NOW TURN TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I AM SUBMITTING SEPARATELY TO YOUR COMMITTEE MORE DETAILED REPLIES TO SOME OF THE QUESTIONS YOU RAISED ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES IN YOUR LETTER OF JUNE 10 TO THE DEPARTMENT. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A FEW MOMENTS HERE TO COMMENT ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES AS WE SEE IT AND TO EXPLAIN THE RATIONALE FOR OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE PHILIPPINES.

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 148276

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE RECOGNIZES THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF MARTIAL LAW IN THE PHILIPPINES HAVE INCLUDED THE SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES AND HUMAN RIGHTS. SPECIFICALLY, AS POINTED OUT BY AMBASSADOR MUTUC IN TESTIMONY BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE, THERE HAVE BEEN WIDE-RANGING ARRESTS SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT OF MARTIAL LAW AND A NUMBER OF THESE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HELD FOR OVER TWO YEARS WITHOUT TRIAL. IN ADDITION, FREEDOM OF THE PRESS HAS BEEN CURTAILED AND, UNDER MARTIAL LAW, FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES HAVE BEEN STRICTLY REGULATED. SEVERAL REFERENDA HAVE TAKEN PLACE, BUT WERE HELD UNDER CONDITIONS OF MARTIAL LAW.

IN REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF MISTREATMENT OR TORTURE OF PRISONERS, WE HAVE HEARD CHARGES THAT THIS HAS OCCURRED. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, HAVE ANY EVIDENCE THAT MISTREATMENT OF PRISONERS OR TORTURE IS EITHER A POLICY OF THE GOP OR A GENERAL PRACTICE. THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT HAS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME ABUSES HAVE OCCURRED, PARTICULARLY IN MORE REMOTE AREAS, AND HAS TAKEN STEPS TO PUNISH THE OFFENDERS AND TO BETTER REGULATE THE SYSTEM AS A WHOLE. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED IN THIS REGARD THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF

THE PHILIPPINES HAS AGREED TO ACCEPT A MISSION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF JURISTS AND TO AFFORD ITS

FULLEST COOPERATION IN EVERY ASPECT OF ITS INVESTIGATION.

WHILE WE SUPPORT THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S AVOWED
INTENTION TO PROMOTE IMPROVEMENT IN THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC
AND ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS, AND THINK THAT THERE HAS BEEN
MEASURABLE PROGRESS IN SOME OF THESE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE
THAT THE ENDS JUSTIFY OR REQUIRE THE CURTAILMENT OF HUMAN
RIGHTS.

HAVING SAID THIS, I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT TO
MENTION THE FACT THAT THE PHILIPPINES HAS HAD A LONG
ASSOCIATION WITH THE UNITED STATES: FIRST AS A COLONY;
THEN AS THE PHILIPPINE COMMONWEALTH; AND, SINCE 1946, AS
A CLOSE AND VALUED ALLY.

THE DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT THAT WAS IN EFFECT
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PAGE 05 STATE 148276

IN THE PHILIPPINES UNTIL THE INTRODUCTION OF MARTIAL LAW
IN SEPTEMBER 1972 WAS PATTERNED AFTER OUR OWN AND WE, OF
COURSE, WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO SEE THAT FORM OF GOVERN-
MENT CONTINUE. HOWEVER, WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE FUTURE
OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THAT OF ITS FORM OF GOVERNMENT ARE
FOR THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE TO DETERMINE, NOT US. REGARD-
ING THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS,
WE CAN ONLY EXPRESS OUR CONCERNS, AS WE HAVE, AND HOPE
THAT GOVERNMENTS WILL REALIZE THAT FREE PEOPLE IN-
EVITABLY COME DOWN ON THE SIDE OF THAT WHICH IS GOOD FOR
THE COUNTRY AS A WHOLE.

I MIGHT NOTE THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD NO ADVANCE
NOTIFICATION NOR DID WE EXPECT THE ACTUAL DECLARATION OF
MARTIAL LAW IN SEPTEMBER 1972, DESPITE SOME EARLIER
RUMORS THAT IT WAS BEING CONSIDERED. HOWEVER, AS
SOME OF YOUR WITNESSES HAVE POINTED OUT, MOST OF THE
PHILIPPINE PEOPLE APPEARED TO ACCEPT MARTIAL LAW AT THE
TIME IT WAS DECLARED AND, INDEED SOME ASPECTS OF MARTIAL
LAW WERE CLEARLY WELCOMED (FOR EXAMPLE, THE MARKED
IMPROVEMENT IN LAW AND ORDER AND IN GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRA-
TION.) SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MARTIAL LAW IN SEPTEM-
BER 1972, WE HAVE CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN FRIENDLY RELATIONS
WITH THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WHILE AVOIDING ANY COMMENT
EITHER IN CONDEMNATION OR SUPPORT OF THE DECLARATION OR
CONTINUATION OF MARTIAL LAW.

IN SECURITY MATTERS THE PHILIPPINES HAS TRADITIONALLY
BEEN ONE OF OUR CLOSEST AND MOST IMPORTANT TREATY ALLIES
IN EAST ASIA. THE DEFENSE COMMITMENTS AND MUTUAL SECURITY
INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES ARE FORMALLY EMBODIED IN LONG-

STANDING AGREEMENTS. WE HAVE MILITARY BASES IN THE PHILIPPINES, THE EXISTENCE OF WHICH IS IMPORTANT BOTH FOR

PHILIPPINE DEFENSE AND FOR BROADER SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES. WE HAVE LONG CONSIDERED IT IMPORTANT THAT THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES BE WELL PREPARED, AND IT IS TO THESE ENDS THAT OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN DIRECTED SINCE 1946.

SINCE THE LATE 1940'S, THE UNITED STATES HAS SUPPLIED
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PAGE 06 STATE 148276

A WIDE VARIETY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES. AT LEAST ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THIS ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN TO HELP THE PHILIPPINE ARMY DEVELOP A CAPABILITY FOR MAINTAINING INTERNAL SECURITY. OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS A LONG-ESTABLISHED COMPONENT OF OUR SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PHILIPPINES; IT LONG PREDATES THE MUSLIM AND COMMUNIST INSURGENCIES. WE ARE AWARE THAT U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT IS BEING USED TO COUNTER MUSLIM INSURGENCY IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES AS WELL AS THE SMALLER THREAT POSED BY COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS IN THE NORTH AND CENTRAL PHILIPPINES. WE KEEP OUR MILITARY UNITS STRICTLY OUT OF THE MUSLIM AREAS, AND WE SCREEN OUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN TERMS OF EQUIPMENT PROVIDED. IT HAS BEEN U.S. POLICY AND PRACTICE TO STAY OUT OF PHILIPPINE EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS BOTH OF THESE DOMESTIC INSURGENCIES. OUR SMALL U.S. MILITARY ADVISORY GROUP IS NOT INVOLVED IN COMBAT OPERATIONS OF ANY KIND. JUSMAG PHILIPPINES IS ASSIGNED A MILITARY ASSISTANCE ROLE ONLY AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. U.S. ARMY PERSONNEL DO NOT PERFORM DIRECT ADVISORY FUNCTIONS BELOW THE LEVEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES GENERAL HEADQUARTERS OR SERVICE HEADQUARTERS, ALL OF WHICH ARE LOCATED IN THE MANILA AREA. THESE ADVISORY EFFORTS DO NOT DIRECTLY SUPPORT OPERATIONS OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMED FORCES BUT ARE LIMITED TO MILITARY PROCUREMENT, DISTRIBUTION, UTILIZATION, MAINTENANCE AND THE LIKE.

WHEN WE TURN TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA, THE ISSUE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IS A MATTER OF CONTINUING CONCERN. SINCE LAST YEAR'S HEARING, THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES OF FURTHER DOMESTIC EVENTS IMPACTING ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. IN THIS CONNECTION, I HAVE PREPARED THE ATTACHED STATEMENT ON CERTAIN SPECIFIC QUESTIONS YOU HAVE RAISED IN DEALING WITH POLITICAL PRISONERS, DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES, AND OTHER QUESTIONS.

SINCE THE HEARINGS LAST YEAR, THE ORIGINAL FOUR EMERGENCY MEASURES HAVE BEEN LIFTED. A TOTAL OF 203 PERSONS WERE TRIED UNDER THESE EMERGENCY MEASURES.

SUBSEQUENTLY ALL BUT 35 WERE RELEASED, ALTHOUGH THE
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PAGE 07 STATE 148276

PROMINENT POET KIM CHI HA HAS SINCE BEEN ARRESTED ON OTHER CHARGES. FURTHER, OF THE 35 PERSONS WHOSE SENTENCES WERE NOT SUSPENDED, 8 REPORTED MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY WERE EXECUTED ON APRIL 9 AFTER THE SUPREME COURT CONFIRMED THEIR ORIGINAL SENTENCE. ON MAY 13 A NEW EMERGENCY MEASURE NO 9 WAS INSTITUTED BY PRESIDENT PARK AND CONTINUES IN FORCE. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS MEASURE ARE BROAD IN THEIR TERMS AND SIGNIFICANTLY INHIBIT POLITICAL EXPRESSION, INCLUDING ADVOCATING CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION. THEY FURTHER PROHIBIT POLITICAL ACTIVITIES ON THE PART OF STUDENTS AND FORM THE BASIS FOR SEVERELY RESTRICTING PRESS COVERAGE OF CERTAIN MAJOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUES. THE MEASURE PROVIDES FOR MINIMUM SENTENCES OF ONE YEAR ALTHOUGH, UNLIKE THE EARLIER MEASURES, TRIAL IS IN THE CIVIL COURT, NOT BY COURT MARTIAL. IN ADDITION, ANY KOREAN CRITICIZING THE GOVERNMENT OR CONSTITUTION TO FOREIGNERS IN KOREA OR ABROAD COULD BE SUBJECT TO THE ANTI-SLANDER LAW PASSED IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR.

THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS JUSTIFIED ITS LATEST EMERGENCY MEASURE BY THE THREAT FROM THE NORTH WHICH IT BELIEVES IS ACCENTUATED IN THE POST-VIET NAM SITUATION. SUCH NORTH KOREAN ACTIVITIES AS THE TUNNELS UNDER THE DMZ HAVE HAD A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. THE GOVERNMENT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT THE EMERGENCY MEASURE INHIBITS POLITICAL RIGHTS, ALTHOUGH ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ITSELF ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE EMERGENCY MEASURE. THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT SOUTH KOREA IS STILL FREER THAN NORTH KOREA. THE INITIAL REACTION TO THE LATEST EMERGENCY MEASURE IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAS BEEN MUTED. ALTHOUGH RECOGNIZED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S CRITICS AS INFRINGING ON POLITICAL RIGHTS, THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION HAS CONTINUED TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, IN PART RECOGNIZING, IN THE POST-VIET NAM SITUATION, THE NEED FOR FOCUSING NATIONAL EFFORTS ON THE COUNTRY'S EXTERNAL SECURITY THREAT.

IN DESCRIBING THE KOREAN SITUATION, I WISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE USG IS NEITHER INVOLVED NOR ASSOCIATED
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 08 STATE 148276

WITH THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S INTERNAL ACTIONS. MY REMARKS ARE A DESCRIPTION, NOT A JUSTIFICATION OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S DOMESTIC POLICIES. IN THE CASE OF THE EXECUTION OF THE 8 REPORTED MEMBERS OF THE PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, WE PUBLICLY EXPRESSED OUR REGRET AT

THIS ACTION. WE CONTINUE TO ASSURE THAT THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS AWARE OF THE PUBLIC IMPACT WITHIN THE U.S. OF CERTAIN OF ITS ACTIONS. WHILE I BELIEVE THIS MAY HAVE

SOME LIMITED EFFECT, THE ROKG VIEWS ITS DOMESTIC POLICIES AS INTERNAL MATTERS, NOT SUBJECT TO CONSULTATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

AT THE SAME TIME WE DO HAVE CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA EXTENDING OVER THE 27 YEARS OF ITS LIFE. THESE CLOSE TIES ENCOMPASS A CONTINUING CONCERN IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FUNCTIONING REPRESENTATIVE INSTITUTIONS WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. BEYOND THAT, WE ALSO HAVE A DIRECT AND VITAL INTEREST IN THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND SECURITY ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. WE HAVE A MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY OBLIGATION AND OUR MILITARY PRESENCE AND MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS IN MAINTAINING THE MILITARY BALANCE ON THE PENINSULA. THIS IS IN OUR OWN INTERESTS AS WELL AS THAT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND OF ITS PEOPLE. VERY OBVIOUSLY OUR SECURITY RELATIONSHIP CONTRIBUTES IMPORTANTLY TO

THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF NORTHEAST ASIA AND IS SO RECOGNIZED BY OUR ALLIES, INCLUDING JAPAN.

I WOULD FURTHER POINT OUT THAT WHATEVER THEIR CRITICISMS OF THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT, PRESIDENT PARK'S DOMESTIC OPPONENTS AND CRITICS VIEW THE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. AS BEING ESSENTIAL. WITHIN KOREA OUR MILITARY PRESENCE AND PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY IN THIS POST-VIET NAM PERIOD, ARE NOT THE FOCUS OF CRITICISM AND DEBATE. RATHER, AS YOU KNOW, THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL OPPONENTS HAVE JOINED IT IN EMPHASIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR SECURITY COMMITMENTS AND WISH THEM TO CONTINUE.

WE SHOULD NOT MISJUDGE THE DETERMINATION OF THE
UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 09 STATE 148276

PEOPLE OF SOUTH KOREA TO RESIST NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION, NOR THE INTERNAL COHESION OF THE NATION ON THIS ISSUE. WHAT IS MOST IMPORTANT TO THE KOREANS, WHATEVER THEIR VIEW OF THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT, IS THE PRESERVATION OF THEIR MILITARY SECURITY AND INTEGRITY. THE CONTINUATION OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS IS ESSENTIAL TO THAT OBJECTIVE.

IN CONCLUSION, MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD STRESS AGAIN THE IMPORTANCE WITH WHICH WE VIEW HUMAN RIGHTS MATTERS AND

ASSURE YOU THAT WE RECOGNIZE THE CLEAR INTEREST OF CONGRESS IN THIS ISSUE. WE NEITHER ASSOCIATE OURSELVES WITH, NOR JUSTIFY, INTERNAL REPRESSIVE ACTIONS AND WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR OUR CONCERN AND THAT OF THE

AMERICAN PEOPLE OVER THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WILL CONTINUE OUR

SECURITY POLICIES WHICH SERVE THE INTEREST OF KOREA, THE REGION AS A WHOLE, AND THE UNITED STATES. THE PRESERVATION OF PEACE ON THE PENINSULA REMAINS THE ESSENTIAL PREREQUISITE FOR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE EXERCISE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN KOREA.

I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT WE MUST OFTEN STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN OUR INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN A PARTICULAR NATION. AT THE PRESENT TIME IN EAST ASIA, THE AREA ABOUT WHICH YOU ARE MOST CONCERNED, THERE ARE VERY CLEAR VALID CONCERNs ABOUT SECURITY AND ABOUT THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE UNITED STATES POLICY IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE INDOCHINA TRAGEDY. IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD -- PARTICULARLY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA -- THERE IS A BROAD PUBLIC RECOGNITION THAT THE ISSUES OF WAR AND PEACE AND THE NATION'S SECURITY IN THE FACE OF EXTERNAL THREAT ARE OF OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE AND MUST WEIGH HEAVILY IN THE BALANCE.

END TEXT. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 26 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, HUMAN RIGHTS, US CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE148276
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/RA:RLWALKINSHAW:AP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750220-0031
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197506102/baaaanmb.tel
Line Count: 405
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EAP
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 8
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 FEB 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 FEB 2003 by PhilliR0>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> wfs 971107
Subject: n/a
TAGS: EAID, MASS, SHUM, KN, RP, (FRASER, DONALD M), (HABIB, PHILIP C)
To: MANILA
SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006